Bihar, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal is below the national average of village electrification. The reasons for low level of electrification in these States *inter-alia* include comparatively difficult location of the villages, poor financial position of SEBs/State Governments and their reluctance to expand unremunerative programme of electrification of new villages, law and order problem etc

(d) The percentage of rural population in each State/Union Territory covered by electrification so far is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(e) Funds disbursed for Rural Electrification Programmes to the above states by the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited during the 8th Plan period is given as under:—

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Funds disbursed by REC (1992—97)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	6508
2.	Bihar	1254
3.	Meghalaya	1154
4.	Orissa	7924
5.	Tripura	3115
6.	Uttar Pradesh	30120
7.	West Bengal	6605

Statement

State-wise percentage of Rural Population covered by way of village Electrification as on 31.3.1997

States	%age Rural population covered
1. Andhra Pradesh	100
2. Arunachal Pradesh	N.A.
3. Assam	68 as on 3/88
4. Bihar	N.A.
5. Goa	100
6. Gujarat	100
7. Haryana	100
8. Himachal Pradesh	100
9. Jammu & Kashmir	N.A.
10. Karnataka	100
11. Kerala	100
12. Madhya Pradesh	98
13. Maharashtra	100
14. Manipur	68 as on 3/89
15. Meghalaya	63
16. Mizoram	75 as on 3/91
17. Nagaland	99.7
18. Orissa	82.0 as on 3/89
19. Punjab	100
20. Rajasthan	92
21. Sikkim	100
22. Tamil Nadu	100
23. Tripura	71
24. Uttar Pradesh	90
25. West Bengal	63
Total UTs	100

Private Sector Project in Gujarat

1332. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector power projects at Hazira, Jamnagar and Paguthan in Gujarat have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, their present status; and

(d) by when these projects are likely to be completed and generate power therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) The status of Hazira, Jamnagar and Paguthan power projects in Gujarat is as follows:

1. HAZIRA

Installed Capacity : 515 MW
Executing Agency : M/s Essar Power Ltd.

The techno-economic clearance (TEC) of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) was obtained on 8.8.1995 and the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) signed on 30.5.1996. Construction work has started on the project. First three units each of 110 MW were commissioned during 1995-96. The balance is expected to be commissioned soon.

2. JAMNAGAR

Installed Capacity	:	500 MW
Executing Agency	:	Reliance Power Ltd.

In-principle clearance (IPC) of CEA was obtained on 1.3.1995. The Project has not yet obtained the techno-economic clearance of CEA.

3. PAGUTHAN

Installed Capacity	:	655 MW
Executing Agency	:	Gujarat Torrent Energy Corporation Ltd.

The TEC of CEA was obtained on 25.11.1993 and the PPA signed on 3.2.1994. This project has obtained financial closure. Civil construction for all major structures started at site and the first gas turbine is expected to be commissioned before end 1997. The full plant is expected to be commissioned by 1999-2000.

Stoppage of Salaries of CEA Functionaries

1333. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the salaries of a number of functionaries of Central Electricity Authority were stopped in a very high handed manner;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government instituted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to stop such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The salaries for the month of March, 1997 of some officials holding temporary posts in Central Electricity Authority could not be released for want of sanction for continuance of these posts, as stipulated under the Rule. Sanction could not be issued in time for want of information from the CEA. However, to avoid hardship, after obtaining the approval of the competent authority the salaries of these officials were released on 3.4.1997, a day after it fell due for payment.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The temporary posts are continued on year to year basis depending upon the work load and justifications for their continuance.

Setting up of Central Energy Conservation Authority

1334. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be leased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to set up a Central Energy Conservation Authority; and

(b) if so, the need and justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) With a view to laying down standards and norms for energy consumption for equipment and